

KNOTTINGLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCILAnnual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1945

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

In view of the present circumstances and the Ministry of Health Circular dated 25th October, 1938, I append herewith abbreviated statistics for the year 1945.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres	2,837
Registrar General's Estimated Population	8,386
Number of Inhabited Houses	2,440
Rateable Value	£ 68,127
Product of One Penny Rate	£ 269

The population has decreased by 2 in 1945.

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	Legitimate - 80 Males. 78 Females. Total 158)	172
	Illegitimate - 8 Males. 6 Females. Total 14)	
	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population -	
		20.51
<u>Still Births</u>	Legitimate - 1 Male. 5 Females. Total 6)	7
	Illegitimate - 1 Male. - Females. Total 1)	
	Rate per 1,000 live and still births.	
		40.11
<u>Deaths</u>	All causes - 58 Males. 50 Females. Total 108	
	Deaths from:-	
	Cancer (all ages)	12
	Measles " "	-
	Whooping Cough (all ages)-	-
	Diarrhoea (Under 2 years)	4
	Syphilis	-
	Heart Disease	31
	Death Rate per 1,000 Population	12.86

The Birth Rate in the Knottingley Urban District is 20.51 against 16.10 for England and Wales. The Death Rate from all causes is 12.86 against 11.40 for England and Wales, so that both these figures compare favourably.

The Infantile Death Rate for the Country is 46.0 - Knottingley 40.11 (last year 37.03)

The principal causes of death were heart diseases, 31 cases, there were four deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years).

Cancer - all forms 12. Bronchitis - 8. Pneumonia - 6.

<u>INFECTIOUS DISEASES</u>	<u>Number Notified</u>	<u>Removed to Hospital</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Scarlet Fever	14	14	-
Whooping Cough	81	-	-
Diphtheria	2	2	-
Erysipelas	6	-	-
Measles	173	-	-
Pneumonia	35	-	6
Puerperal Fever or Pyrexia	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	-	-	-
Tuberculosis-Pulmonary	11	-	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-
Tuberculosis-Non Pulmonary	3	1	1

During the year 1945, further big efforts were made to affect the Immunization of all school children and children under school age. Splendid help was given by the teaching staff instilling the necessity of the school children being immunized and the Urban Council also gave me good help.

The estimated number of children in the Knottingley Urban District between the ages of nought and four is 822. The added number during 1944 immunized in this age group is 156 bring the percentage to 62.00. The added number between 4 and 15 is 115 bringing the percentage immunized to 93.00.

SCABIES

Arrangements are being continued with the Pontefract Isolation Hospital to treat women and children. This was carried out with success and reducing the number of cases to be notified. Notification of Scabies is not compulsory, but good co-operation is carried on between the doctor practicing in the area and myself.

TUBERCULOSIS AND SYPHILIS.

These are dealt with directly from the West Riding County Council also the care of premature infants and illegitimate children.

The Sanitary conditions and circumstances are dealt with by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. G. J. Laverick in Form "C". There are no special matters calling for comment, except the above paragraphs on Immunization and Scabies.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. KEHELLY

Medical Officer of Health.

1917
The first of the year
was a very dry one
and the crops were
very poor.

The second of the year
was a very wet one
and the crops were
very good.

The third of the year
was a very dry one
and the crops were
very poor.

The fourth of the year
was a very wet one
and the crops were
very good.

KNOTTINGLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report for the year - 1945

To Dr. J. Kehelly,
Medical Officer of Health. - Knottingley U. D. C.

It is pleasing to record that the war is over at last and that Local Authorities can now confine their efforts to the development and improvement of local conditions.

It can be placed on record that no serious deterioration in the health of the Community occurred during the war years, the area being wonderfully free from epidemic in infectious diseases and that scavenging was carried out in a satisfactory manner.

This district did not suffer the hardships of enemy action, no bombs being dropped in the area, so we have not the worry of repairs to bomb damaged houses, sewers, water mains, etc.

Knottingley, however, has its big problems in housing, Town and Country Planning and road works and these are already receiving the considered attention of my Council and have so far made certain progress.

HOUSING

My Council had already purchased 14 acres of land in Spowd Bone Lane for new houses and in September, 1945 received approval to build 30 permanent brick built houses as part of a scheme for 140 houses on this site. Contract has been signed by a Rotherham firm for these 30 houses and have been set out for an immediate start. Plan and lay-out of the further 110 houses are now being prepared and these, with the 30, should be well on their way for completion in 1946.

My Council are of the opinion that only permanent brick built houses should be built in this area and are not favourably impressed by any temporary measures in prefabrication. Should they at any time see and like pre-fabricated houses they will give them their consideration.

TOWN PLANNING

My Council is a member of the West Riding (Eastern Districts) Joint Town Planning Committee for housing and town planning. A full time Town Planning Officer has been appointed for this group and meetings are held frequently by the above group. Progress in 1946 in this important subject should be good and a plan for the whole area on broad lines will be prepared by the Technical Officers in the area and be fully discussed and considered by the group area as a whole.

WATER

The maintenance of a good and wholesome water supply for the Urban District is essential and this is being maintained through bulk supply from the Pontefract Corporation.

In the Nevison Leap area lack of adequate supply is still existing but this will be attended to in a short time with the provision of a 4" water main from Bubwith House area, Pontefract Road.

Holmfield area (12 houses only) have well supply, but this area will also be given town's supply in the near future.

SEWERAGE

The four small areas not sewered are as follows:-

Cattle Laithe.....12 houses.
Holmfield's.....12 houses.
Headlands.....40 houses.
Goole Road.....11 houses.

These are having attention but in two cases it will mean the provision of pumping plant.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Only houses scheduled for clearance and those not on town's water supply are without water closets.

SCAVENGING

There is a good weekly collection of scavenging, but tipping is only partly controlled. Control tipping or Incineration must be a thing of the future.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are no swimming baths or pools in the Urban area, but most councillors view this provision as necessary and no doubt will have favourable consideration in a short time ahead.

MILK SUPPLY

The producers of milk are less than before the war, but the standard remains good, with very few complaints.

Yours faithfully,

O. J. LAVERICK

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

1. The first part of the document is a list of names and addresses, which appears to be a directory or a list of contacts. The names are written in a cursive script, and the addresses are listed below them.

NOT RECORDED
JAN 10 1964